

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An inventory management system comprising:

at least one piece of equipment having a plurality of components, each of said components having a predictable lifetime;

an inventory of replacement parts for said components;

~~a computational element operatively coupled to said equipment;~~

and

~~a mechanism~~ an inventory manager for managing said inventory by tracking said predictable lifetime of said components through usage of said piece of equipment.

2. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein said computational element further comprises a user interface; ~~said mechanism is coupled to said computational element and said mechanism further comprises an input device that allows entry and deletion of parts within said inventory.~~

3. (Original) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said predictable lifetimes to said components are compared against a threshold that is based on said equipment usage and monitored by said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager.

4. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager further comprises:

~~at least one input from said piece of equipment to said computational element forming said operational coupling, said input providing~~ receives usage updates on said piece of serviceable equipment;

~~at least one threshold for each of said components that is compared against~~ compares usage of said piece of equipment to at least one threshold for each of said components; and

~~a~~ provides notification ~~that is triggered~~ when said threshold is reached.

5. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 4, wherein said threshold is an accumulated total amount of usage being equal to one of said predictable lifetimes.

6. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager further comprises an inventory notification that is activated when a total number of replacement parts for a specific component within said inventory reaches a predetermined number.

7. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ an inventory manager ~~further comprises~~ utilizes a set of parameters related to said predictable lifetime of said components, said set of parameters being used to determine quantities of reorder parts for said inventory.

8. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager for tracking ~~further comprises~~ utilizes a set of parameters related to said predictable lifetime of said components, said set of parameters being used to determine a frequency at which reorder of parts for said inventory is made.

9. (Original) The inventory management system of claim 8, wherein said set of parameters includes a rate of use of said replaceable components.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said predictable lifetime is a dynamic variable that can change proportionately with use of said printing system.

12. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein at least one of said predictable lifetimes is computed when one of said replaceable components is taken out of stock and replaced.

13. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager uses a daily printer page count to more accurately predict said inventory needs by tracking said remaining life of said replaceable components.

14. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim 13, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager manages said inventory for a plurality of printers, and tracks said daily page count for each of said plurality of printers.

15. (Currently Amended) The inventory management system of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ inventory manager creates said order form for a predetermined number of shipments within a given time period based on a comparison of said remaining life with an expected use parameter.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for inventory management ~~comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing at least one piece of a serviceable equipment item that has a plurality of replaceable components; and also providing that are replaced from an inventory of said the replaceable components; comprising:~~

~~calculating a predetermined life span to of each of said the replaceable components within said the serviceable piece of equipment;~~

~~creating a system for tracking said predicted life span of said the replaceable components; and~~

~~managing said the inventory using said system for tracking.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 17, wherein the step of creating further comprises said system for tracking having a set of parameters based on said predicted life span of ~~said~~ the replaceable components that is used to determine quantities of reorder parts for ~~said~~ the inventory.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 17, wherein the step of creating further comprises said system for tracking having a set of parameters based on said predicted life span of ~~said~~ the replaceable components used to determine a frequency at which parts for ~~said~~ the inventory are reordered.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 17, wherein the step of creating further comprises said system for tracking having a set of parameters based on said predicted life span of ~~said~~ the replaceable components that include a rate of use of ~~said~~ the replaceable components and wherein the step of managing further comprises determining a replenishment period for ~~said~~ the replaceable components.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 18, ~~wherein the step of providing further comprises said serviceable piece of equipment being a printing system and~~ wherein the creating step further comprises said tracking system being coupled to said inventory to receive data regarding said rate of use for said replaceable components.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 19, ~~wherein the step providing further comprises a printing system as said serviceable equipment item and~~ the step of managing further comprises determining a page life for ~~said~~ the replaceable components from said rate of use, is a dynamic variable that can change over time for any of ~~said~~ the replaceable components.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim ~~20~~ 22, wherein the step of managing further ~~comprises~~ said page life ~~is~~ for ~~said the~~ replaceable components is computed each time one of ~~said the~~ replaceable components is taken out of ~~stock~~ inventory and replaced.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of inventory management of claim 22, wherein the step of creating further comprises said tracking system tracking a daily page count for ~~each of~~ a plurality of printers.

25. (Cancelled)